

(Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 473, a bill the amend title 38, United States Code, to make qualification requirements for entitlement to Post-9/11 Education Assistance more equitable, to improve support of veterans receiving such educational assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 540

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 540, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 544

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 544, a bill to amend Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to modify the termination date for the Veterans Choice Program, and for other purposes.

S. 583

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 583, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds to hire veterans as career law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 593

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 593, a bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States.

S. 616

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 616, a bill to amend section 721 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 to include the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Health and Human Services as members of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States and to require the Committee to consider the security of the food and agriculture systems of the United States as a factor to be considered when determining to take action with respect to foreign investment, and for other purposes.

S. 623

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 623, a bill to enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of assistance provided under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to promote quality basic education in devel-

oping countries, to better enable such countries to achieve universal access to quality basic education and improved learning outcomes, to eliminate duplication and waste, and for other purposes.

S. 655

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 655, a bill to exempt certain 16- and 17-year-old individuals employed in logging operations from child labor laws.

S. 681

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 692

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 692, a bill to provide for integrated plan permits, to establish an Office of the Municipal Ombudsman, to promote green infrastructure, and to require the revision of financial capability guidance.

S. 733

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 733, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

S. 751

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 751, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

S. 774

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 774, a bill to address the psychological, developmental, social, and emotional needs of children, youth, and families who have experienced trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 792

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 792, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to establish an H-2B temporary non-agricultural work visa program, and for other purposes.

S. 796

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 796, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend

the exclusion for employer-provided education assistance to employer payments of student loans.

S.J. RES. 11

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 11, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the final rule of the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation".

S. RES. 54

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 54, a resolution expressing the unwavering commitment of the United States to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 803. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny tax deductions for corporate regulatory violations; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing, along with Senator GRASSLEY, the Government Settlement Transparency and Reform Act. This bill closes a loophole in the Tax Code that allows corporations to claim tax writeoffs for payments made at the direction of the government to settle investigations into illegal and abusive corporate behavior.

Corporations accused of illegal activity routinely settle out of court with government agencies because it allows all parties to avoid the time, expense, and uncertainty of going to trial. While there is nothing wrong with settlements that correct wrongful corporate practices and compensate for the resulting harm caused by a corporation, the Tax Code often permits offending companies to claim a business tax deduction for any portion of a settlement that is not paid directly to the government as a penalty or fine for a violation of the law. The Tax Code on this point is vague, and big businesses exploit this by characterizing settlement penalties as tax-deductible business expenses.

Illegal corporate behavior is not an ordinary business activity, and it shouldn't be subsidized by taxpayers. Yet, according to a 2015 study by U.S. Public Interest Research Group, PIRG, corporate settlements over a single 3-year period totaled nearly \$80 billion, and corporations could claim business deductions for at least \$48 billion of that amount. Moreover, there is no consistent, transparent way to track how these settlements can and will be treated by businesses for tax purposes.

The Reed-Grassley bill addresses these problems by amending the Tax

Code to require the government and the settling party to reach clear agreements on how settlement payments should be treated for tax purposes. It also clarifies which settlement payments are punitive and therefore non-deductible. It increases transparency by requiring the government to file a return at the time of settlement that accurately states the tax treatment of amounts to be paid by offending businesses. Last Congress, it was estimated that this legislation would raise \$218 million in revenue over a ten-year budget window.

When a major corporate scandal breaks national news, Rhode Islanders and all Americans deserve to know that Federal regulators are protecting their interests by handing down punishments that deter future illegal and abusive business practices. That deterrent effect is undermined if corporations can claim a deduction for any penalty and build the cost of breaking the law into their business models.

I want to thank Senator GRASSLEY for working with me again on this legislation and for being a champion for reform in this area. I urge our colleagues to join us by cosponsoring this legislation and seeking its passage.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 108—RE-AFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE UNITED STATES-EGYPT PARTNERSHIP

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 108

Whereas after almost four decades of close cooperation, the United States-Egypt partnership has been built on shared objectives and interests with enduring bipartisan support in Congress;

Whereas the Government and people of Egypt play a critical role in global and regional politics;

Whereas the United States-Egypt partnership is vital for the peace, stability, and prosperity of the Middle East;

Whereas Egypt has been an intellectual and cultural center of the Arab world, and continues to be an important country based on its geography, demography, and historic leadership role;

Whereas Egypt remains one of the top recipients of United States foreign assistance worldwide, having received \$77,000,000,000 in bilateral foreign aid from the United States, including \$1,300,000,000 per year in military aid;

Whereas Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel remains one of the most significant diplomatic achievements for the promotion of Arab-Israeli peace;

Whereas for almost forty years, Egypt, Israel, and the United States have collaborated to counter terrorism, prevent illicit smuggling, and enhance regional stability;

Whereas the United States has welcomed Egypt's participation in the Global Coalition to Counter ISIS;

Whereas Egypt and the United States held a Strategic Dialogue in Cairo, Egypt on August 2, 2015, based on the shared commitment to deepen the bilateral relationship;

Whereas Egypt can play an important role in facilitating negotiated settlements to end the conflicts in Libya, Syria, and Yemen, re-starting the Middle East Peace Process, and defeating ISIS;

Whereas the Egyptian people continue to be the victims of heinous terrorist attacks, including the December 11, 2016, ISIS bombing of the Saint Mark's Coptic Orthodox Cathedral, which killed 28 people including women and children;

Whereas the Government of Egypt reached an agreement with the International Monetary Fund in November 2016 to take important steps toward economic stabilization, such as liberalizing its foreign exchange system and reducing costly fuel subsidies;

Whereas President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, in a televised interview on September 16, 2016, said that he is very committed to preserving human rights in Egypt and that Egypt will not return to tyranny;

Whereas the Department of State's 2016 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices notes, with respect to Egypt, that—

(1) “[t]he most significant human rights problems were excessive use of force by security forces, deficiencies in due process, and the suppression of civil liberties”;

(2) “[t]here were numerous reports that the government [of Egypt] or its agents committed arbitrary or unlawful killings while making arrests or holding persons in custody”;

(3) “[c]onditions in the prisons and detention centers were harsh and potentially life-threatening due to overcrowding, physical abuse, inadequate medical care, poor infrastructure, and poor ventilation”;

(4) “[s]everal international and local human rights groups . . . reported a spike in enforced disappearances [in Egypt], alleging authorities increasingly relied on this tactic to intimidate critics”;

Whereas credible local organizations estimate that thousands of people are detained solely for political reasons in Egypt, including for peacefully protesting or calling for a change in government;

Whereas in March 2017, President el-Sisi pardoned 203 prisoners many of whom had been jailed for taking part in protests;

Whereas United States citizen Aya Hijazi, her husband Mohammed Hassanein, and other members of the Belady Foundation have been unjustly imprisoned in Egypt since May 2014;

Whereas the Parliament of Egypt's passage of legislation restricting the work of non-governmental organizations undermines Egypt's stated commitment to protecting constitutionally guaranteed rights and to furthering Egypt's democratic transition;

Whereas the media is regularly harassed by Egyptian authorities and Egypt was the world's third-highest jailer of journalists in 2016, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists;

Whereas respect for democracy, inclusive governance, human rights, and civil liberties have been core pillars of United States foreign policy since at least the 1970s;

Whereas Egypt will ensure its security, economic prosperity, and transition to democracy by protecting the constitutionally guaranteed rights of all Egyptians;

Whereas the last official visit to the United States by an Egyptian head of state was in August 2009;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) welcomes Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to the United States;

(2) expresses hope that President el-Sisi's visit will open a new chapter in United States-Egyptian relations as both sides pledge to work toward greater cooperation based on shared interests and values;

(3) acknowledges the central and historic importance of the United States-Egypt partnership in advancing the common interests of both countries;

(4) hopes that President el-Sisi will highlight in public statements the value of ties between the United States and Egypt;

(5) recognizes that Egypt faces legitimate security threats and expresses condolences for the loss of life suffered by the Egyptian people in attacks by violent extremist organizations;

(6) stands with the Egyptian people as they confront violent extremism and threats on land and sea borders;

(7) appreciates Egypt's regional role as a partner and mediator;

(8) recognizes the necessity for Egypt's leaders to take steps toward genuine political reform that prioritizes human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law;

(9) demands the immediate release of unjustly imprisoned American citizens, including Aya Hijazi, who has been detained in Egypt since May 2014 on unsubstantiated charges;

(10) demands an immediate end to the harassment and interference in the operations of independent civil society and media organizations in Egypt, including the closure of Case 173 and the revision of Egypt's non-governmental organization law in accordance with international best practices;

(11) encourages the United States and Egypt to increase cooperation—

(A) to combat terrorism in a manner consistent with international human rights law;

(B) to promote principles of good governance; and

(C) to ensure respect for the universal rights of the Egyptian people;

(12) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to support the Government of Egypt with assistance, training, and other resources as it combats terrorism, addresses security in the Sinai Peninsula, and enhances Egypt's border security and maritime security while recognizing the need to monitor security assistance to ensure accountability and due process of law;

(13) clarifies that any proposed restructuring of United States assistance to Egypt, which is subject to the approval of Congress, will take into account progress on meaningful political reform, human rights, and fundamental freedoms;

(14) congratulates the Egyptian government on their engagement with the International Monetary Fund and their difficult, but necessary, steps to stabilize the economy;

(15) supports Egypt's economic reform efforts;

(16) calls on the United States Government to develop a new strategy for joint efforts—

(A) to bolster trade between the United States and Egypt and investment in the Egyptian private sector;

(B) to combat corruption; and

(C) to promote higher education; and

(17) urges the President of the United States and the Secretary of State to engage the Egyptian Government on new ways to advance the bilateral relationship economically, militarily, diplomatically, and through cultural exchanges, while ensuring respect for the universal rights of the Egyptian people.